6.0 CUMULATIVE EFFECTS AND LONG-TERM ENVIRONMENTAL CONSEQUENCES

6.1 SECONDARY EFFECTS

Secondary, or indirect, effects caused by actions are effects that occur later in time or farther removed in distance, but which are reasonably foreseeable. Indirect effects may include growth-inducing effects and other effects related to induced changes in the pattern of land use, population density, or growth rate. The project, as proposed, considers effects associated with disposition of collected flyash and employment changes during AHPC system construction. No other secondary effects would be expected.

6.2 CUMULATIVE EFFECTS

A cumulative impact, as defined by the CEQ (40 CFR 1508.7) is the "impact on the environment which results from the incremental impact of the action when added to other past, present and reasonably foreseeable future actions regardless of which agency (federal or non-federal) or person undertakes such actions. Cumulative impacts can result from individually minor but collectively significant actions taking place over a period of time."

The proposed action would result in addition of about 300 tons per year to the current amount of flyash collected at the Big Stone Power Plant. This would equate to less than 1% change in total flyash collection at the Power Plant, which would not be expected to produce adverse effects. Flyash recovered at the Power Plant is either sold on the open market or collected for disposal in an on-site landfill.

6.3 LONG-TERM ENVIRONMENTAL CONSEQUENCES

The proposed action, if supported, would result in establishing a facility to improve the efficiency of particulate removal from flue gas at the Big Stone Power Plant. Upon completing a projected 3-year project for DOE, Otter Tail Power Company would be expected to continue operation of the AHPC system. Currently, collected flyash from the Big Stone Plant that cannot be marketed is landfilled in an existing on-site landfill. The landfill has sufficient capacity for an additional 35 years of use at the current disposal rates. The 300 additional tons of ash that would be collected per year by the AHPC system would result in an additional 10,500 tons of ash during the 35-year lifetime of the landfill. At recent landfill addition rates of 85,000 to 169,000 tons per year, and a permitted disposal rate of 250,000 tons per year, the additional ash that would be produced by the proposed project would have a negligible long-term consequences.